


Welcome to CAIR Minnesota

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The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), America's largest Islamic civil liberties and advocacy group has 35 offices and chapters nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. The demand for our services has grown tremendously. From restrictions placed on Muslims to practice their religion, to profiling and discrimination stemming from a lack of understanding of Islam, the need for CAIR in Minnesota is great. The proof is reflected in the dramatic increase in civil rights cases by 250% from 2007 to 2013. CAIR-Minnesota strives to ensure that Muslims in Minnesota enjoy the same protections that all Americans have.

Enhancing the Understanding of Islam

CAIR-MN actively engages with the media to ensure that a fair and accurate portrayal of Islam and Muslims is presented to the American public. This is accomplished through media appearances, press conferences, opinion editorials and letters to the editor. In addition, CAIR-Minnesota provides training to community members, media professionals, and employers. Media professionals are engaged in discussions about working with the Muslim community, with the purpose of helping to create an environment where fair and balanced journalism can thrive. The Muslim community is educated on working with the media to assert their rights and respond with confidence when met with requests for interviews.

Promoting Justice

Protecting the rights of Minnesota Muslims is at the core of CAIR-Minnesota's mission. We work vigorously to educate on behalf of community members experiencing discrimination and remedy cases through in-person negotiations, from filing charges of discrimination, letter writing, and referrals to our attorney referral network. Cases range from employment, public accommodation and school discrimination, to hate crimes and governmental religious/racial profiling.


Category: [About Us](#)



DISCRIMINATED?
LET US KNOW.

FILE A REPORT

Staff

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JAYLANI HUSSEIN
Executive Director

Jaylani's family emigrated from Somalia to Minnesota in 1993. He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Community Development/City Planning and is currently pursuing a law degree. He has served on the board of directors for various community organizations in the Twin Cities, and is currently on an Advisory Council for U.S Attorney B. Todd Jones. He has served as Secretary on ARAHA Executive Board since 2004. He

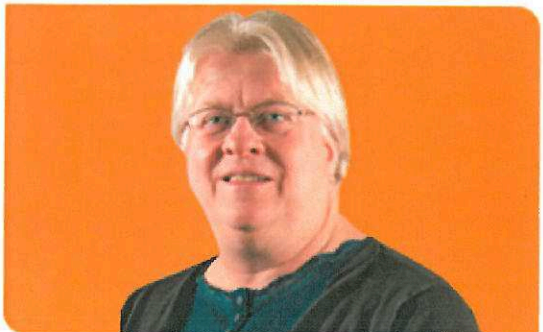
has traveled to the Horn of Africa twice on behalf of ARAHA, to open a regional field office as well as to oversee large-scale humanitarian projects in the Somali Famine of 2011.



NAUSHEENA HUSSAIN
Deputy Director

Nausheena Hussain is responsible for the funding portfolio, operations, civic engagement and marketing at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Minnesota (CAIR-MN). In 2014, she was appointed as a Commissioner on the Charter Commission for the city of Brooklyn Park. She serves on the Advancement Committee for the Charities Review Council.

Nausheena is a co-founder and board member of the Brooklyn Park Islamic Center. Nausheena also volunteers at Al-Amal School, and received the 2014 Parent Volunteer of the Year Award, Al-Maghrib's Impact team, and at the food shelf for Building Blocks of Islam. In 2004, Nausheena cofounded the Muslim Youth Leadership Award and served on its board of directors. Nausheena served on the Headwaters Foundation for Justice Social Change Fund committee 2011-2014, reviewing and approving grant requests. She is a fellow graduate from the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute and is now part of the Studio/E entrepreneurial program. Nausheena was named the 2012 Catalytic Leader by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Nausheena graduated from the University of Minnesota cum laude in 2003 with her MBA. Married, with two young children, she lives in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.



ELLEN LONGFELLOW, ESQ.
Civil Rights Attorney

Ellen is an attorney with over 25 years of legal experience. She has assisted low income people in need of legal services through a variety of ways. She worked at free legal clinics in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties for the nonprofit organization Civil Society, Ramsey County Law Library, and Minnesota Legal Corps. Recently, she has also worked as an advocate for crime victims and elders at the Council on Crime and Justice and the ElderCare

Rights Alliance. She serves as a hearing officer for a suburban city. Ellen is a trainer for the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies on legal and ethical issues. She worked for the League